

BD/A 75-0226

17 JAN 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : A Presidential Classroom for Young Americans

Sir:

1. By letter dated 10 January 1975, the Executive Director of A Presidential Classroom for Young Americans requested that you address the students at their Graduation Banquet during the 1975 program. The Banquets take place at the Sheraton-Park Hotel from 7:00-8:30 p.m., and you have been provided three possible dates for consideration, 28 February, 21 March and 4 April 1975.

2. By way of background, the Agency has participated in the program since 1972, and we have been fortunate in receiving extremely favorable ratings as a result of the fine performance of young Agency officers who have been working with the students, and the excellent briefings at the Agency, normally handled by [redacted] In his recent letter of 23 September 1974, Mr. John Golden was strong in his praise of the Agency's approach, and he pointed out that the characteristic which contributed most to the students' favorable judgment is that CIA personnel field the tough questions without hiding behind bureaucratic gobbledygook or evasion. Mr. Golden concluded with the statement that he would be calling one day in a candid effort to persuade you to meet a class. Your response of 21 December 1974, left the door open by stating you "would be happy to consider" such a meeting.

3. It is my view that this is an excellent program, the Agency has received very high grades in the past, the timing is right, and it would be a good mechanism for some frank discussion of recent events. I am reminded that you

came through extremely well in talking to our summer employees, who asked some very penetrating questions, and I think the same forthright approach would do us a lot of good, particularly with young people in and out of the Agency. As Mr. Golden implied, we may not make many conversions, but the students will leave with a little more respect and understanding of our mission--and that is the name of the game.

4. On the premise that you may agree with this rationale, I have taken the liberty of drafting a positive response for your signature.

for Mac 11-20-75

John F. Blake
Deputy Director
for
Administration

Att

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EO-DD/A: der (17 Jan 75)

DD/A 75-0227

Mrs. Angie B. Whitaker
Executive Director
A Presidential Classroom for
Young Americans
Post Office Box 19064
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mrs. Whitaker:

Thank you for your letter of 10 January 1975, inviting me to address the students at their Graduation Banquet during the 1975 program. It was quite thoughtful of you to offer various dates for my consideration in the February - April time frame.

As I pointed out in a recent letter to Mr. John Golden the Central Intelligence Agency has been very favorably disposed towards A Presidential Classroom for Young Americans, and we have made a conscious effort to select high caliber young Agency officers to represent us in this worthwhile endeavor. This attitude fits in with my own efforts in the last year to provide the American public with a clearer understanding of the American intelligence process in an open society. I am, of course, conscious that recent publicity about the Agency might generate increased interest by the students in this issue.

For the above reasons, I accept with pleasure your kind invitation, and I look forward to meeting with the students on 18 February 1975.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby
Director

ORIGINATOR:

/s/ John F. Blake

John F. Blake
Deputy Director

Approved For Release 2002/06/05 : CIA-RDP77-00512R000100010163-7

Administration

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